

independent publishing ?



Victor Coleman (left) and Glen Siebrasse at Publishing Symposium

"Canadian publishing companies simply cannot compete with the US companies. They can afford to put a copy of a book in every drug store and if it doesn't sell in seven weeks, they rip the covers off and send them back to the publishing companies where they are destroyed."

Victor Coleman made this statement as The University of Alberta played host to the League of Poets this past weekend in the Henry Marshall Tory Bldg. Poetry readings and symposiums were the order of the day as a "Band of Bards amused the muses."

A symposium entitled "Independent Publishing in Canada" featured a panel of Glen Siebrasse and Victor Coleman fielding questions and comments from a group of about sixty people. The atmosphere was informal as it appeared that many of the poets and publishers in the gallery knew each other.

Victor Coleman of Coach House publishing in Vancouver cited a problem unique to Canadian publishers in the adverse affect of American publishing on the Canadian market. U.S. publishers can afford to swamp the market with a particular book and follow it up with intensive advertising thereby creating a market that didn't exist prior to publication of that book.

Such is the case of a once small U.S. publishing company. The publisher commissioned a book to be written, enshrouded the author in mystery by using only an initial instead of full name and then advertising with every penny he had available. The Sensuous Woman was such a success that the process was soon to be repeated by the now multi-million dollar company. The Sensuous Man was the next step in what has now become a pattern for publishing companies.

Compare this to the Canadian poet in the audience who spent \$44.00 of

his own money and did all the printing and manual labour himself in order to publish a scant 340 copies. His effort could hardly be said to have had any effect on the market. Nor is this atypical; many Canadian poets are being asked to do much of the work involved in the printing and publishing of their works.

Another problem is the breadth and diversity of the Canadian culture. What appeals poetically to the Torontonian may be of little relevance or interest to the inhabitant of the land of the midnight sun.

These two problems appear to be insurmountable because as Coleman put it, "Last year we published 30 books and I consider that to be too many. We just can't do a good job on that many books." He also admitted that he seldom reads unsolicited manuscripts but directs his efforts toward publishing his own works and those of his friends. gwm

anti-warriors mobilize

The University of Alberta Vietnam Action Committee and the Indochina Action Committee will be holding an anti-war mobilization conference on Saturday, October 14 at 11:00 a.m. in the meditation room in SUB. The conference is intended to lay the plans for a series of fall anti-war activities, including a cross-Canada student anti-war conference to be held at the University of Waterloo on November 4 and 5.

The agenda for the conference includes talks by Howard Leeson, NDP candidate in Edmonton Strathcona and by Richard DeGaetano of the Toronto Vietnam Mobilization Committee.

Representative of S.T.O.P., the U of A Vietnam Action Committee, and the Indochina Action Committee will also speak. A series of slides, "The Automated War" and the film "Winter Soldier" will be shown.

In the past the anti-war movement has organized mass peaceful demonstrations to support international actions demanding the right of self-determination for the Vietnamese, the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops and material from Indochina, an end to Canada's diplomatic and material involvement in the war and an end to campus research carried out for the U.S.

military and through the Canadian Defense Research Board.

The organizers claim that it is more crucial than ever that the anti-war movement respond internationally in demanding that the U.S. get out of Indochina. As reports continue to come out confirming the fact that the dike system in Vietnam is being bombed by the U.S., the threat of millions of deaths more, which would occur if the system bursts, looms larger than ever.

The conference has been endorsed by Grant Notley (Alberta NDP), U of A students' council, the Young Socialists, Paul Quinlan (editor, Alberta Labour) and S.T.O.P.

undergrad societies

fail

The Science Students' Association is "shutting down with as little fuss as possible", according to its vice-president Rick Friesen.

The two-year old organization has been "slowly disintegrating" over the past year due to lack of interest. Last spring, a general meeting called to elect this year's executive attracted four students and five candidates for the six executive positions. This year, only two of the executive, Friesen and Eugene Brodie, a board member, have spent much time in the Association's office. The president, Dianne Painter, apparently did not return to university this fall.

Whether the association attempted to be social or political "we got the same response—very little," Friesen said on Friday. He suggested that the organization has failed because of the diversity of interests in the faculty. "The students' union can co-ordinate the smaller organizations."

flounder

The executive of the Education Students Society has not decided what action to take following the recent, and not entirely unexpected failure to reach a quorum for their general meeting. Fewer than twenty of the quorum of fifty members attended.

E.S.S. president Gary Chmara explained that the meeting, held in the Education Building last Thursday, had been called to satisfy the requirements of the society's constitution. "I didn't expect that we would be able to hold the meeting, although I prepared for it," Chmara said.

Despite the fact that there were posters in many classrooms in the Education Building, Chmara feels that the meeting was not well publicized. "We have come to the conclusion that people simply don't read things on bulletin boards," Chmara said. Future meetings will be announced in classes.

revive?

The faculty of Arts is attempting to find a way to replace another student association which never really got off the ground. The demise of the Arts Students Association has "presented the faculty with no end of difficulties," according to Alan Paterson, faculty secretary.

When the A.S.A. was formed in 1970, it took on the responsibility of getting students elected to Arts faculty committees and councils. In many cases, students are entitled to parity.

Since no new members were elected last year, the faculty council voted to extend the membership of those students who had been elected the year before. This fall, the council has struck a committee to investigate new ways of choosing student reps. The two remaining students on the faculty's executive committee have been asked to serve on the committee.

cs,tt

tractors march on kraft

The Edmonton Boycott Kraft Committee was formally constituted over the weekend, as National Farmers Union National coordinator Don Kossick addressed a workshop held in the Tory Building on Saturday. Among topics discussed were the history of the N.F.U., including various successful campaigns in the past. Highlighted were tractor demonstrations across Canada, opposition to the War Measures Act, hog demonstrations, alliances with AFL-CIO and the Westons boycott;

Aims of the N.F.U. are to get consumers aware of the boycott and join the NFU struggle to gain rights to collective bargaining.

They are planning picket actions to attack multi-national monopolies, in an effort to stop large corporations from cornering the market, and thereby achieve immunity from competition.

The boycott has been sanctioned by the NFU since last August (1971) and confident that success is imminent, if consumers are willing to support it by purchasing alternative brands, notably those of farmers cooperatives.

gb

Delaney fields grievances

Your Prof been picking on you? The nasty guy gave you a two when you were sure you deserved a three? The Law Faculty told you that you couldn't enter it without junior high?

This may be your lucky year! SU vice-president academic, Patrick Delaney wants to hear all your problems.

What can he do for you? Delaney has decided to re-instate the Academic Grievance Committee to handle such student complaints as an unfair mark, a personal conflict with the professor, a denial of credits, and denial of permission for entrance to a faculty.

Since March 1970, the university ombudsman has handled grievances of this type, but Delaney feels that students should first be allowed to consult other students, and that students are reluctant to consult the ombudsman who is thought to be too high in the appeal rank.

Last year, during his campaign, he stopped attending his English course and failed to fill out a bureaucratic withdrawal form. He was consequently classified as an absent-failure for not attending his final examination.

As an adult student, "academic failure" meant he couldn't continue his programme. But your VP Academic is a fighting man.

First he appealed to his faculty dean, then to the faculty appeals committee, and finally to the GFC executive itself. He argued successfully that he could not be classified as "academic failure" because they had no record at all of his academic performance in class.

This now means that the whole question of adult students must be reviewed. A sub-committee of GFC has now been established to set permanent appeals procedures.

To have a grievance heard a student should first phone or see Delaney at his SU office, and he may likely refer him back to his professor or faculty. Otherwise Delaney may decide, if the problem warrants, to call his committee to meet.

In closed session, with the student's name in confidence, the committee will decide on any further action seen necessary.

The committee is not intended as a vehicle for avoiding rules, but is set up to deal with cases where established rules have been breached.

Avoid administrative hassles. Let your local VP Academic go through them for you.

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